

July 5, 2005

Dear Water System Manager:

New public notice regulations are in effect for South Dakota public drinking water systems. These regulations changed the methods and circumstances of when you issue a public notice to your customers.

Here a few highlights of these regulations-

- Three tiers of violations with different deadlines for issuing public notices
- The Mandatory Health Language has been simplified
- Methods of notice delivery have been modified
- Efforts need to be made to reach as many consumers as possible-Not just billing units

Perhaps the most important change is the requirement for you to consult with the Drinking Water Program (DWP) when you have a Tier 1 violation. When a Tier 1 violation occurs at your water system, you must contact DWP within 24 hours to determine whether public notice methods in addition to TV, radio, or direct home delivery must be used. (Non-community systems may post their notices.) To contact DWP Monday-Friday, you may call 605-773-3754. On Saturdays or Sundays, you may call 605-280-6831. Tier 1 violations include-

- Acute fecal coliform violations
- Nitrate, nitrite, or total nitrate/nitrite maximum contaminant level (MCL) violations
- Chlorine dioxide maximum residual detection level (MRDL) violation in distribution system
- Failure to take MRDL chlorine dioxide samples in distribution system when required
- Exceedance of maximum allowable turbidity level
- Waterborne disease outbreak or other waterborne emergency

Please note that these violations occur when you receive your sampling results from the lab (thru mail or by telephone) or have analyzed your turbidity or chlorine dioxide samples (if your system must do these samples). The DWP receives your results usually after you do. You cannot wait until Monday to consult with DWP if you get your sample results after 5:00 pm on Friday.

If you have a violation, you will be notified by letter and will also receive a copy of the Public Notification Handbook; however, this will occur after the fact for Tier 1 violations. The Handbook is also available on the DWP web site at- <http://www.state.sd.us/denr/des/drinking/download.htm>. Information concerning Tier 1 Public Notices has been enclosed.

If there are any questions on this matter, please contact me at the Drinking Water Program in Pierre.

Sincerely,



Rob Kittay
Drinking Water Program
Phone: (605) 773-4208

Tier 1 (Immediate Notice, Within 24 Hours)

Notice must be issued as soon as practical but must be within 24 hours via radio, TV, or direct home delivery. (Non-community systems may post their notices at conspicuous locations throughout system.) Radio and TV notices must aired a minimum of three times during a 24-hour period. Postings must remain in place at least seven days or until the violation is resolved (whichever is longer). The following are Tier 1 violations-

- Acute fecal coliform violations (Fecal coliforms present on repeat samples OR fecal coliforms present on routine sample followed by any positive repeat sample)
- Nitrate (10 mg/l), nitrite (1 mg/l), or total nitrate/nitrite (10 mg/l) maximum contaminant level (MCL) violations
- Chlorine dioxide maximum residual detection level (0.8 mg/l) violation in distribution system
- Failure to take MRDL chlorine dioxide samples in distribution system when required
- Exceedance of maximum allowable turbidity level (1 NTU)
- Waterborne disease outbreak or other waterborne emergency
- Other violations or situations determined by the Drinking Water Program

PWSs must also initiate consultation with the Drinking Water Program within 24 hours. **The Drinking Water Program may establish additional PN requirements during consultation.**

Consultation with DENR for Tier 1 Violations and Any Daily Turbidity Violation

If you incur a Tier 1 Violation, you must consult with the DENR within 24 hours of learning of the violation (either from performing an analysis on-site or being notified by your lab or DENR of sample results). DENR may require additional PN requirements to better serve to customers of your system. Surface water systems must also consult DENR for any daily turbidity violation for remedies to the problem.

Phone numbers to consult with DENR are 605-773-3754 Monday-Friday 8:00 am-5:00 pm Central Time. All other times you may call 605-280-6831. This phone number will connect you to a member of the Drinking Water Program staff. If no-one answers this number, please leave a message and a DENR staff member will return your call.

Example Public Notices

Fecal Coliform Standard for Drinking Water Exceeded

1 has exceeded the fecal coliform/*E. coli* standard during the month of 2. These bacteria can make you sick, and are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems.

The State of South Dakota and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set drinking water standards and have determined that the presence of fecal coliforms or *E. coli* is a serious health concern. Fecal coliforms and *E. coli* are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST. Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation **until further notice**. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.

1 is taking the following actions to correct this problem- 3

Please share this information with all the people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For additional information, please contact 4.

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1. Insert your system's name.
 2. Insert the month and year your system exceeded the coliform standard.
 3. Possible corrective actions you may take include-
 - Installation of a continuous chlorinator
 - Batch chlorinating the water system
 - Increasing the coliform sampling
 - Investigating the source of the contamination
 - Increase chlorine levels
 - Flushing of main lines
 4. Insert the name, address, and telephone number of a contact person representing your public water system.

Nitrate Standard for Drinking Water Exceeded

The nitrate level in the 1 water supply was found to be 2 milligrams per liter mg/L when tested. This notice is to inform the public that the 1 drinking water nitrate level is in excess of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for nitrate, which is 10 mg/L. This sample was analyzed on 3.

The State of South Dakota and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets drinking water standards and has determined that nitrate poses an acute health concern at certain levels of exposure. Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome. Blue baby syndrome is indicated by blueness of the skin. Symptoms in infants can develop rapidly, with health deteriorating over a period of days. If symptoms occur, seek medical attention immediately.

Do not boil the water. Boiling, freezing, filtering, or letting water stand does not reduce the nitrate level. Excessive boiling can make the nitrates more concentrated because nitrates remain behind when the water evaporates. Adults and children older than six months can drink the tap water (nitrate is a concern for infants because they cannot process nitrates in the same way adults can). However, if you are pregnant or have specific health concerns, you may wish to consult your doctor. Water, juice, and formula for children less than six months of age should not be prepared with tap water. Bottled water or other water low in nitrates should be used for infants

1 is taking the following actions to correct this problem- 4.

Please share this information with all the people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For additional information, please contact 5.

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1. Insert your system's name.
 2. Insert the level of nitrate in the water supply.
 3. Insert the date the analysis was performed.
 4. Insert the actions your system is taking to correct the problem.
 5. Insert the name, address, and telephone number of a contact person representing your public water system.

Turbidity Standard for Drinking Water Exceeded

1 routinely monitors your drinking water for turbidity (cloudiness). This tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. A water sample taken 2 showed turbidity levels of 3 turbidity units. This is above the standard of 1.0 turbidity units. Because of these high levels of turbidity, there is an increased chance that the water may contain disease-causing organisms.

DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST. Bring all water to a boil for one minute and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, washing dishes, brushing teeth, and food preparation until further notice.

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

We are taking the following actions to correct this problem- 4

We will inform you when the turbidity returns to appropriate levels and when you no longer need to boil your water.

Please share this information with all the people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For additional information, please contact 5.

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1. Insert your system's name.
 2. Insert date(s) of elevated turbidity samples.
 3. Insert the level of turbidity.
 4. Insert actions that your water system is taking to correct the problem.
 5. Insert the name, address, and telephone number of a contact person representing your public water system.